The State of Washington

COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CAPAA

Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Winter 2001 Volume 2, Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Our state is now engaged in the 2001 Legislative Session. During this time, the CAPAA will track, analyze and advise the legislature around the equitable and meaningful delivery of education, human and health services, and community, economic and workforce development. We will also monitor legislation that relates to human and civil rights.

With respect to education equity, the CAPAA is especially interested in the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission's request to have the "legislative authority to set a goal designed to accelerate the achievement of students from various racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds who are presently underachieving." Indeed, the CAPAA urges the state to take meaningful steps to eliminate the chronic academic achievement gap between Caucasian and non-Caucasian students. Also, while the CAPAA does not have a position on the Washington Assessment on Student Learning (WASL) as yet, we are monitoring it for disparate impact on underserved communities. Fundamentally, we are interested in an education system that is fully prepared to support *all* students to succeed at high levels. This means in part that the education system is able to recognize, value and draw upon the rich cultural strengths of *all* its students.

The CAPAA is also very concerned about possible cuts to critical social and health services on which many vulnerable members depend. During this uncertain budgetary time, we hope that the state strengthens its commitment to protect the children, the elderly, the disabled, the homeless, and low-income families.

As our state deliberates proposed legislation, the CAPAA wishes for all our legislators the wisdom, compassion and leadership to ensure the well-being of our state's vulnerable members.

Sincerely,

Miebeth R. Bustillo-Hutchins

How a Bill Becomes a Law

By Joel Borja, Legislative Liaison

A bill is an idea or combination of ideas expressed in legal language. Legislators may respond to bill requests from state elected officials, constituents or special interest groups. The following is a summary of how a bill becomes a law.

1. **First Reading.** A bill may be introduced in either legislative houses, the Senate or House of Representatives.
2. **Committee Hearing.** It may then be heard in its assigned committee for debate, public testimony, amendments, and may be passed out of committee. Each committee deals with bills in a topical area (e.g., Education, Human Services, and Corrections). The House and Senate have similar committee structures, but may differ slightly.
3. **Rules Committee.** Next, a committee report is read in open session in the originating house, and the bill is referred to the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee can either place the bill on the second reading of the calendar for debate before the entire body, or take no action.
4. **Second Reading.** At the second reading, a bill is subject to debate and possible amendments.
5. **Third Reading.** If a bill passes second reading, it is placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.
6. **Process Repeats in Other House.** After passing one house, the bill goes through the same process in the other house.
7. **Concurrence.** If amendments are made in one house, the other house must concur for the bill to pass both houses. When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is sent to the Governor.
8. **Governor Signature.** Finally, the Governor can either sign the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. It takes two-thirds of both houses to override a Governor's veto. If the Governor fails to act on the bill, it may become law without signature.

In This Issue

Dear Friends,

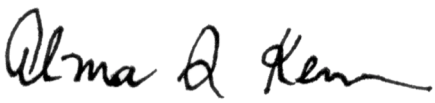
During the holidays, I was reminded of the vulnerability of the elderly in the upcoming legislative months. I was especially concerned of their quality of life that will be largely negotiated by elected officials, lobbyists, and other stakeholders.

In December, my husband, my son and I helped out at two Christmas parties. One was held at the Filipino Community Center for elderly veterans and their spouses. The other was held at the Gran Oriente Center, where Filipino American senior citizen clients of the Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) attended. Senior citizens at both events were in their seventies through nineties. They lived alone, were mobile and very willing, but not able to find good employment. They were also dependent on monthly social security benefits or handouts from family and friends. Most of them complained about their inability to obtain and/or afford good medical services. Yet every one of them possessed a holiday spirit that was enviable.

Not long ago, the Filipino Community of Seattle also held a community forum in which results of a needs assessment survey were presented. The survey results told the leaders of the Filipino community that the most important need is in medical care and social services for the elderly.

As a former board member of ACRS, I am aware that the concerns raised by the Filipino American elderly are shared by many across racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. In this uncertain budgetary times, let us be aware that budget cuts in human services have human faces. Possible cuts, for example, would mean less medical care and caretakers for the elderly and the disabled. Low-income families with children are also vulnerable. They may go through needless suffering if certain cuts are made in our state human services. During this legislative session, please be especially concerned and aware of their needs. Together we can protect those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Sincerely,



Alma Kern

APA Service Agency Snapshot

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

By Ryan Minato, Research Analyst

The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) serves thousands of Asian Pacific American (APA) seniors, who represent the fastest growing segment of the aging population. NAPCA's mission is to serve as the leading national advocacy organization committed to the dignity, well-being and quality of life of APAs in their senior years. Among the goals of NAPCA is to advocate on behalf of the APA aging community at the local, state and national levels, to empower APA seniors and the aging network to meet the increasing challenges facing the APA aging community, and educating APA seniors and the general public on the unique needs of the APA aging community.

One project of NAPCA is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (NAPCA/SCSEP). The objective of NAPCA/SCSEP is to locate government or non-profit host agencies where APA seniors can benefit from on the job training while, in turn, seniors provide program support and valuable experience. APCA/SCSEP funds the part-time salary during this training period. However, the ultimate goal is to maintain these APA older workers into unsubsidized employment and provide them access to available community resources. The CAPAA currently hosts one SCSEP enrollee.

NAPCA/SCSEP volunteers. *Photo courtesy of NAPCA.*

NAPCA: (206) 624-1221 SCSEP: (206) 322-5272

State Budgets

By Joel S. Borja, Legislative Liaison

The State Budgets

The Legislature adopts three biennial (two-year) budgets during odd-numbered legislative session years (e.g., 2001). The following illustrations use budget figures from the 1999-2001 biennium:

- **The Operating Budget** ($20.8 billion) pays for the day-to-day operation of state government in such areas as human services, public schools, natural resources, and paying off the state's debt. The biggest cost driver is the rising cost of health care.
- **The Capital Budget** ($2.3 billion) is for the acquisition and maintenance of state buildings, public schools, parks, and other assets.
- **The Transportation Budget** ($4.5 billion) pays for transportation activities such as maintaining roads and mass transit. The 1999 passage of Initiative 695, which limited car tab fees to $30, is expected to reduce the Transportation Budget by over $2 billion.

To make needed adjustments, supplemental budgets may also be considered, usually during even-numbered years.

Budget Development

Agency Budget Proposals and Requests. In late summer and early fall of each even-numbered year, state agencies submit budget requests to the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

The Governor's Budget. The Governor reviews, makes final decisions on the agency requests, creates the Governor's proposed spending and taxation plan for the ensuing biennium, and presents this proposed budget in the December before legislators convene in the following January of odd-numbered years.

The Legislative Budget Process. The Governor submits the proposed budget to either the House of Representatives or the Senate, where one of more legislators sponsor the executive bill request. The budget starts in one house one biennium and the opposite house the next. It then follows much the same process as how a bill becomes a law. The budget is first referred to a fiscal committee where a series of hearings and testimonies are held. The committee may amend the Governor's budget or introduce one of its own and vote it out of committee. The fiscal leaders of the opposite house often discuss elements of the proposed budget with the fiscal leaders of the originating house to come to some agreement. The opposite house may also develop its own version.

Once the bill passes out of both houses, the Governor may veto all or part of the budget.

Revenues, Spending Limits, & Outlook

Revenue Sources. Washington receives most of its revenue from taxes, licenses, permits and fees, and federal grants. Each revenue source is deposited in specific funds used to support operating or capital expenditures. Washington's major tax sources include the sales tax, property tax, and the Business and Occupation (B&O) tax, which is a tax on gross receipts rather than on profit or income.

Initiative 601. In 1993, Washingtonians passed Initiative 601 (I-601) to limit the growth in state government spending and taxation. I-601 puts a "cap" on activities funded with general fund-state (GF-S) revenues based on the amount of government spending in the last three years adjusted for population growth and inflation. When GF-S revenues are in excess of the spending limit, the extra revenue can be used to reduce taxes or put in a special reserve fund. Our state has two reserve funds: Emergency and General Fund Unrestricted.

The 2000 Legislature adopted House Bill 3169, which made changes to the I-601 spending limit. These changes will affect GF-S and non-general fund budgets beginning with the 2001-03 budgets. The principal changes include:

- Change from a 5% biennial to an annual spillover threshold from the Emergency Reserve Fund to the Education Construction Fund
- Creation of a State Expenditure Limit Committee to determine and adjust the state expenditure limit
- Clarification of what constitutes a Money Transfer
- Creation of a "Two Way Street" Provision, which established that the state expenditure limit can be adjusted upward when program costs or revenues are transferred to the General Fund from another state fund or account

Current Budget Outlook. The 2001-03 spending limit is $22.17 billion. The maintenance level (amount to maintain current operations) is $22.2 billion. In November 2000, Washington State residents passed three initiatives (I-728—funds for smaller class sizes and other education programs; I-722—tax increase limits; and I-732—funds for annual cost-of-living adjustments for K-12 and some community and technical college educators), which could claim a total of over $850 million of state revenues and reserves before any cuts or policy changes. The Emergency Reserve Fund is projected to have a balance of $570.2 million; it takes two-thirds of both houses to use this fund. The General-Fund Unrestricted Reserve is projected to have $481.1 million; it takes a simple majority of both houses to use this fund.

Sources: Office of Program Research, 2000; Washington State Legislature, 2000.

Filipino Americans

By Ryan Minato, Research Analyst

Formal Filipino and U.S. ties began in 1898 when the Philippines became a U.S. protectorate as a result of the Spanish-American War. Although, Filipinos suffered under exclusionary laws and other harsh treatments, their sense of idealism and hope for a better economic, social and political future drew them to the U.S.

Immigration Roots

The first Filipinos on the continental U.S. were mid-16th century Filipino sailors who jumped off Spanish galleons along the Louisiana coast. However, significant migrations to the U.S. did not begin until the U.S. acquired the Philippines from Spain in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War. Almost immediately, the Filipinos wanted independence from colonial power and the little known Philippine-American War began in 1899. The war ended in 1902 with a U.S. casualty of over 4,000 and a combined military and civilian Philippine casualty of over 220,000—though many historians believe it was over half a million. Between 1898 and 1946, Filipinos entered the United States not as aliens but as U.S. nationals. The Philippines finally gained its independence on July 4, 1946.

Although the first Filipinos to arrive in Seattle were in 1883, the first official immigration wave was during 1906 to 1934 when Filipinos went to California and Hawaii as agricultural workers. By the 1920s, Filipinos, largely Alaska salmon cannery and Washington lumber workers, became a major segment of Pacific Northwest's Asian Pacific American (APA) population. The next migration wave was due to the passage of the Immigration Act of 1965 that drew many Filipino professionals to the U.S. Later migrations would include non-professionals seeking refuge from their native country's social, political and economic turmoil.

Filipino WWII Veterans

When World War II (WWII) broke out, the Philippines was a U.S. territory with Filipinos as U.S. nationals. In 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order that called "into service of the Armed Forces of the U.S....all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines." Approximately 142,000 Filipinos fought along side U.S. soldiers under the American flag. For their equal sacrifice, the U.S. government promised them veteran benefits. However, this promise has yet to be kept.

Ever since, Filipino WWII Veterans, now in their 70s and older, have sought full veterans benefits from the U.S. for their services during WWII. There is a pending Filipino Veterans Equity Bill in Congress that would finally honor the promise of veteran benefits to Filipino WWII veterans.

Sources: Sucheng Chan, "Asian Americans," 1991; "Rural Asian Americans," CAPAA, 1976; Warne, "Washington State," 1998; Karnow, "In Our Image," 1989; Takaki, "In the Hearts of Filipino Americans," 1989; Leckie, "The Wars of America," 1981; Seattle Times, "Filipino-American WWII vets say U.S. owes them benefits," May 22, 1998.

Photo courtesy of Filipino American National Historic Society.

Civil Rights Struggles

Filipinos faced several civil rights struggles for some time. For example, they were greatly affected by anti-miscegenation laws that forbade the marriages between "Mongolians" and Caucasians, even though Filipinos were largely of mixed origins—primarily Melayo-Polynesian, Spanish, and Chinese. It was not until 1967 that all anti-miscegenation statutes in the U.S. were removed.

Also, during the 1920s and 1930s, Filipinos were run out of Toppenish and were repeatedly harassed in Yakima Valley. Furthermore, Washington State's Anti-Alien Land Law of 1937 prohibited Filipinos—even though they were U.S. nationals—from owning and leasing land. Filipinos challenged the law's constitutionality and hired Pio DeCano to lead their case in court. In 1939, the Washington State Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional.

Another Pacific Northwest civil rights struggle is in the Wards Cove case, where Filipino cannery workers filed suit against the salmon industry's discriminatory practices in 1974. Today, the case is before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Justice Blackmun's dissent to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1989 Wards Cove decision lends some light to the nature of the struggle: *The salmon industry as described (in the Wards Cove case) takes us back to a kind of overt and institutionalized discrimination we have not dealt with in years: a total residential and work environment organized on principles of racial stratification and segregation.*

Even though Filipinos lived in a constant climate of racism, they remained deeply loyal to the U.S. Illustrative of this was during World War II when many Filipino men and women joined the military effort to prove their patriotism to America.

Current Population

Approximately 1,000 Filipinos enter the U.S. each year through the Port of Seattle. While some move on, many remain in the area. Approximately 60% of Filipinos live in King County, while others live in Bremerton and in the Yakima Valley. Today, Filipino Americans make up the largest ethnicity within the APA community and in Washington State and in the nation with over 1.2 million.

Noteworthy Filipino Americans

Filipino American contributions in the arts, the labor movement and in politics are noteworthy in their commitment to social justice and democratic idealism. For example, Carlos Bulosan, author of *America is in the Heart,* lived for a time in Seattle. Silme and Nemesio Domingo and Gene Viernes were labor organizers who helped form the Alaska Cannery Workers Association. The highest political officials of Filipino descent are Dolores Sibonga, who served on the Seattle City Council from 1980 to 1992; and Velma Veloria, who became the first Asian American woman in the state legislature when she was elected in 1992.

Critical Needs of the APA Community

By Miebeth R. Bustillo-Hutchins, Executive Director

The majority of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) are immigrants and refugees, many of whom are low-income, speak limited English, and rely on state assistance for basic needs.

Critical APA Needs

Among the most vulnerable members in our state are the homeless, the elderly, the disabled, the mentally ill, immigrants and refugees, and low-income families and children. The majority of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in our state are refugees and immigrants, many of whom are low-income, speak limited English, and rely on state assistance for basic needs. APAs also suffer suffer from the "model minority" myth syndrome that trivializes and overlooks their unique socio-economic and health challenges. Below is a summary of the critical needs of APAs.

Dental care. Many immigrants and refugees are in great need of dental care because their native land lacked or had severely limited availability to preventative and restorative oral care. A survey conducted by the International Community Health Services (ICHS) in 1994 illustrates this when its study showed that over 66% of the respondents had current dental problems and 41% needed dentures. Also, numerous studies show that inadequate dental care is directly linked to overall health and to significant medical conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

Naturalization and Refugee Services. These services help immigrants and refugees become citizens and self-sufficient members of our society. Agencies such as Asian Counseling and Referral Services and the Korean Women's Association receive funds through these programs to conduct English as a Second Language (ESL) and civics classes for immigrants seeking to become citizens. These services save the state money because U.S. citizens are eligible for federally-funded benefits and will not have to rely on state-funded programs. State refugee social services help refugees become self sufficient by offering counseling, transportation assistance, job training and job retention courses.

Interpreter Services. These services ensure that appropriate medical communication occur between limited-English-proficient (LEP) patients and medical practitioners. Since medical care can be complex, these services help minimize medical miscommunications and help avert dire medical consequences that arise from lack of proper medical interpretation.

APA Community Needs

- Dental Care
- Naturalization and Refugee Services
- Exemptions on Welfare Lifetime Limit
- Adult Day Health
- Homecare Services for the Elderly and Disabled
- Mental Health
- Bilingual Education

Exemptions Welfare Lifetime Limit. In August of 2002, families on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will begin to hit the five-year lifetime limit on welfare. State law exempts 20% of the families from this limit. However, APAs are especially at risk since LEP persons are twice as likely to hit the five-year limit than English-speaking persons.

Possible legislation to exempt working families from the five-year limit when their income is too low to get off welfare would free up more slots under the 20% exemption. This legislation would pertain to such groups as the disabled, grandparents, and parents caring for disabled children.

Adult Day Health (ADH). ADH centers provide skilled health treatments, nutrition and social activity to those who are mainly in their late seventies or older. Approximately half of ADH clients rely on state funding for their care. Since state Medicaid does not cover the full cost of care, ADH organizations typically operate at a loss and conduct private fundraising to survive. An example of an ADH serving APAs in the multi-lingual ADH center in Seattle's International District, which serves 100% very low-income APA elders.

Homecare Services for the Elderly and the Disabled. Thousands of the elderly and the disabled rely on these services for their basic needs such as dressing, bathing and eating so that they can have live in their homes and other community settings—a great alternative to costly institutionalization. For many APA elders, culturally sensitive services offered by state-contracted community-based organizations are life lines. However, there is a two-fold crisis: 1) homecare workers' wages are shamefully low at $7/hour; and 2) the state reimbursement rate is inadequate to sustain services. Together these conditions threaten the availability and quality of care. This is happening as the demand for homecare services escalates. Our state's elderly population over the age of 85 is expected to increase by 66% by 2010.

Mental Health. APAs are at a higher risk of mental illness than most groups, often due to posttraumatic stress sydrome as a result of harsh conditions (e.g., war, torture, and civil disturbances) in their their native land and the cultural isolation and shock experienced once in the U.S. One study, for example, found that Hmong refugees "experienced the highest one year rate of psychiatric disorder yet observed in any group of adults." The recommendation posed by the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee in December 2000 to "equalize" mental health funding among counties would result in a loss of 30% in funding for King County and a significant loss for Pierce County. Such a study does not account for the differences in client needs profile across counties. Also, APAs would be disproportionately impacted since they are concentrated in those two counties.

Bilingual Education. The state's current transitional bilingual education program does not adequately meet the needs of the growing LEP student population. The program functions like and an ESL program rather than a bilingual program, which uses the child's native linguistic skills as a foundation to the acquisition of English language skills and academic progress. Approaches that do not build on the child's prior linguistic knowledge is short-sighted. Indeed, a 1993 study conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy and a recent report by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction concluded that encouraging native language development and literacy are the most effective methods to ensure long-term and progressive academic achievement of LEP students. Efforts to further weaken the state's transitional bilingual education program negatively affect these students' long-term academic progress. Indeed, the state needs to ***fully*** fund the bilingual education program to meet the student's basic educational needs.

Protecting the Vulnerable

As our state goes through difficult budget considerations, it is important to keep the needs of the vulnerable at the forefront. They are vulnerable because they are less likely to have the resources to fend for themselves during any economic condition, let alone an uncertain one. And for many APA communtiy members, they are further vulnerable because they are culturally and linguistically isolated.

Sources: Asian Pacific Islander Coalitions of King and Pierce Counties, 2001; Office of Program Research 2001; JLARC Mental Health System Performance Audit, 2000; Educating LEP Students in Washington State, OSPI, 2000.

Photo courtesy of NAPCA.

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CAPAA Current and Historical Events

Current

Feb. 19 - Camp Harmony D-4-44: Public Exhibit and Day of Remembrance for the signing of Executive Order 9066 calling for the internment of Japanese Americans in 1942, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 12-2 PM, Free. Contact: (206) 623-5124.

Mar. 1 - Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Day, Capitol Rotunda, Olympia, 10 AM cultural performances, 11:30 AM Governor Locke address. Contact: (206) 694-6796.

Mar. 25 - National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony - honoring James Okubo and William Kenzo Nakamura of the 100/442nd RCT, Mercer Arena, 1:30 PM. Contact: (206) 362-7302.

Historical

Feb. 1, 1943 - The 442nd is formed as a special Japanese American combat unit, later to become the most highly decorated single unit in WWII.

Feb. 1, 1893 - the US Minister raises the American flag and proclaimed Hawaii to be a protectorate of the US.

Feb. 2, 1848 - Two men and a woman, brought on the brig Eagle, become the among the first Chinese in San Francisco.

Feb. 4, 1899 - Philippine-American War begins as US takes over and Filipino nationalists seek independence. Over 220,000 Filipinos die in the three-year conflict.

Mar. 14, 1980 - Following the translation of the citizenship test into Japanese, 137 Issei (first generation Japanese Americans) are sworn in as US citizens in LA. Most had been residents for over 20 years.

Mar. 15, 1944 - Chi Cheng is born and goes on to hold six US track and field records.

Mar. 20, 1946 - The last of the Japanese American detainees depart from the internment camps.

Apr. 15, 1980 - Carol Kawanami is elected mayor of Villa Park, CA to become the first Japanese American woman to preside over an American city.

Apr. 18, 1975 - President Ford authorizes 130,000 Southeast Asian refugees to enter the US as new governments emerge in Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos.

Apr. 19, 1984 - Judge June Patel vacates the conviction of Fred Korematsu who challenged the Japanese American internment during WWII.

Apr. 29, 1992 - 2,300 small businesses are destroyed in Koreatown during the LA riots.

Apr. 29, 1945 - Japanese American soldiers help liberate Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp.

Volunteer and Make a Difference

Looking for volunteer or internship opportunities? Please call, (206) 464-5820. You *will* make a difference.

The *CAPAA Newsletter* is a publication by the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

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